provided to database 210 by polling data from Internet 23. More particularly, web information 46 comprises consumable part numbers, alternative consumable part numbers, and information for selecting a reseller. Users 48 each use a PC 12 to communicate on a one-to-one relation bi-directionally with computer peripheral devices 14, 114, and 214. As was the case with the environment depicted in Figure 3, computer peripheral device 14 comprises a printer having an embedded web server. Computer peripheral device 114 comprises a Legacy printer. Furthermore, computer peripheral device 214 comprises a multi-function peripheral (MFP) having an embedded web server.

In the Claims:

No claims have been cancelled or added.

Claim 10 has been amended.

The following is a clean version of the entire set of pending claims.

1.   A consumable order assistance system for computer peripheral devices, comprising:

a personal computer having a web browser and a messaging system;

at least one computer peripheral device having a messaging system;

a communication link signal coupling the personal computer with a seller of a consumable for the computer peripheral device via the web browser; and

a consumable order assistance computer program provided on the personal computer and configured to receive a notification from the computer peripheral device via the messaging system of a need to order a consumable, alert a user of the personal computer of the notification, and provide an order location to the user for the consumable.

1   2.   The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2   assistance computer program is further configured to collect a series of
3   notifications and summarize the series of notifications for one or more computer
4   peripheral devices.

1   3.   The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2   assistance computer program consolidates a plurality of notifications from the at
3   least one computer peripheral device.

1   4.   The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2   assistance computer program is further configured to request identification from
3   a user to verify authorization of the user to submit an order.

1   5.   The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2   assistance computer program is further configured to request at least one level
3   of authorization from a user before sending an order via the communication link
4   to a reseller of the consumable.

1   6.   The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2   assistance computer program is further configured to provide an electronic
3   shopping cart data list that enables electronic ordering of the consumable from
4   one of a list of resellers of the consumable.

1   7.   The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2   assistance computer program is further configured to prompt a customer user
3   for authorization information.

1   8.   The system of claim 1 wherein the communication link

2 comprises an electronic communication link that enables the consumable order

3 assistance computer program to submit an e-mail order.

1   9.   The system of claim 1 wherein the communication link

2 comprises an electronic communication link that enables the consumable order

3 assistance computer program to submit a facsimile order.

1   10.   (Amended) A computer-implemented system which implements

2 a program in which consumable components of computer peripheral devices are

3 replenished, the system comprising:

4   a notification system that alerts a user of a personal computer that

5 they need to order a consumable for a computer peripheral device associated

6 with the personal computer;

7   a facilitation system that provides a communication link with a reseller

8 of the consumable; and

9   at least one from a list of a consolidation system for consolidating a

10 plurality of orders, an authorization system for confirming that a user is

11 authorized to place an order for the consumable, and an order assistance system

12 that places an order for the consumable.

1   11.   The system of claim 10 wherein the notification system

2 identifies for the user a part number for a consumable that needs to be ordered

3 for the computer peripheral device.

1   12.   The system of claim 10 wherein the notification system

2 comprises a messaging system within an embedded web server of a computer

3 peripheral device and a messaging system within a personal computer.

1   13.   The system of claim 12 wherein the personal computer further

2 comprises a browser, and the messaging system comprises an e-mail

3 application, wherein the computer peripheral device sends an e-mail notification

4 to the personal computer to alert a user to a need to order a consumable.

1   14.   The system of claim 13 wherein the e-mail notification

2 identifies the consumable by a part number.

1   15.   The system of claim 10 wherein the system comprises the

2 consolidation system configured to aggregate a plurality of notifications for one

3 or more computer peripheral devices.

1   16.   The system of claim 10 wherein the system comprises the

2 authorization system configured to request authorization from a user prior to

3 automatically submitting an order for the consumable to a reseller of the

4 consumable.

1   17.   The system of claim 10 wherein the system comprises the

2 order assistance system configured to automatically submit an order for the

3 consumable in response to receiving a notification that a consumable needs to

4 be ordered.

1   18.   A method of providing order assistance, comprising:

2   providing a computer peripheral device, a personal computer having a

3 communication link with a reseller of a consumable, and a messaging system

4 extending between the computer peripheral device and the personal computer;

5   detecting a need to replenish a consumable at the computer peripheral

6 device;

7   notifying a user at the personal computer of the need to replenish the

8 consumable.